

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Student Financial Assistance Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance

Scholarship/Grant Programs—Acts of the 2015 Regular  
Session  
(LAC 28:IV.705, 803 and 805)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) is exercising the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act [R.S. 49:953(B)] to amend and re-promulgate the rules of the Scholarship/Grant programs [R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, and R.S. 17:3042.1.1-3042.8, R.S. 17:3048.1, R.S. 56:797.D(2)].

This rulemaking amends the administrative rules to provide that students will have until the end of the academic year to achieve the cumulative grade point average required by their award.

It also provides that high school graduates through the 2016-2017 academic year may utilize the core curriculum that was in effect prior to the passage of Act 403 during the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

The Emergency Rule is necessary to implement changes to the Scholarship/Grant programs to allow the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and state educational institutions to effectively administer these programs. A delay in promulgating rules would have an adverse impact on the financial welfare of the eligible students and the financial condition of their families. LASFAC has determined that this Emergency Rule is necessary in order to prevent imminent financial peril to the welfare of the affected students.

This Declaration of Emergency is effective August 20, 2015, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. (SG16165E)

#### **Title 28 EDUCATION**

#### **Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education**

#### **Scholarship and Grant Programs**

#### **Chapter 7. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards**

#### **§705. Maintaining Eligibility**

A.1. - A.7. ...

8.a. Through the 2013-14 academic year (TOPS), maintain at an eligible college or university, by the end of the spring semester, quarter, or term, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average on a 4.00 maximum scale of at least:

i. a 2.30 with the completion of 24 but less than 48 credit hours, a 2.50 after the completion of 48 credit hours, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in an academic program; or

ii. a 2.50, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree; and

b. Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year (TOPS), maintain at an eligible college or university, by the end of the academic year, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average on a 4.00 maximum scale of at least:

i. a 2.30 with the completion of 24 but less than 48 credit hours, a 2.50 after the completion of 48 credit hours, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in an academic program; or

ii. a 2.50, for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree; and

c. The provisions of §705.A.8.b. shall not apply during the 2014-2015 academic year to students who met the requirements of §705.A.7 at the end of the spring semester of 2015, but who did not meet the requirements of §705.A.8.b. at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year.

d. Beginning with the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS), maintain at an eligible college or university, by the end of the academic year, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average (Opportunity, Performance, Honors) on a 4.00 maximum scale of at least:

i. a 2.30 with 24 but less than 48 earned credit hours for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in an academic program for the last semester attended during the academic year; or

ii. a 2.50 with 24 but less than 48 earned credit hours for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in a program for a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma or a non-academic undergraduate degree for the last semester attended during the academic year; or

iii. a 2.50 with 48 or more earned credit hours for continuing receipt of an Opportunity Award, if enrolled in any program of study for the last semester attended during the academic year; and

e. a 3.00 for continuing receipt of either a Performance or Honors Award; or

f. the minimum grade necessary to maintain good standing, if enrolled in a graduate or professional program; or

g. meet the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school, if enrolled in an eligible cosmetology or proprietary school; and

B.1. Students failing to meet the requirements listed in §705.A.7 or §705.A.8.a., b., d., f., or g may have their tuition awards reinstated upon regaining “steady academic progress” (see §301) and/or attainment of the required TOPS cumulative grade point average, if the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years from the date of loss of eligibility.

2. If the two-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty in the United States Armed Forces, the two-year period will be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service.

3. Students who fail to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.e., shall no longer be eligible for the stipend authorized for the Performance and Honors Awards, but shall be eligible to receive the award amount for the Opportunity Award if they meet the continuation requirements of §705.A.8.a., b., d., f., or g.

4.a. A student shall have one semester or quarter after the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS) for which the TOPS Award will be paid to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.d. if the student:

i. Failed to meet the requirements listed in §705.A.8.d. solely because the calculation of the TOPS cumulative grade point average (Opportunity, Performance,

Honors) at the end of the 2015- 2016 academic year (TOPS) includes both hours and grades for courses taken before the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS) in both academic and technical courses of study, and

ii. Was a high school graduate or home study completer who enrolled for the first time as a full time student in an eligible postsecondary institution before the 2015-16 academic year (TOPS); and

iii. Not suspended after the 2014-15 academic year (TOPS).

b. The TOPS award of a student who meets the requirements of §705.B.4.a. shall not be suspended unless the student fails to meet the requirements of §705.A.8.d. by the end of the fall semester or quarter of 2016 in which case:

i. The student's TOPS award shall be suspended effective at the end of the fall semester or quarter of 2016, and

ii. The provisions of §705.B.1 and 2 shall apply.

c. If a student does not enroll full time for the fall semester or quarter of 2016 and any subsequent consecutive semesters or quarters and is granted an exception for all of those semesters or quarters, the provisions of §705.B.4.b. shall be extended to the end of the next semester or quarter during which the student enrolls full time and for which the student's TOPS award is paid.

C. - F.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 22:338 (May 1996), repromulgated LR 24:637 (April 1998), amended LR 24:1904 (October 1998), LR 25:257 (February 1999), LR 25:656 (April 1999), LR 25:1091 (June 1999), LR 26:67 (January 2000), LR 26:688 (April 2000), LR 26:1996 (September 2000), LR 26:2001 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1853 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:772 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1163 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:3115 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 34:1390 (July 2008), LR 36:491 (March 2010), LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 38:3159 (December 2012), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:664 (April 2015), LR 41:

## **Chapter 8. TOPS-Tech Award**

### **§803. Establishing Eligibility**

A.1. - A.6.a.iv. ...

v. for students graduating in the 2013-2014 school year through the 2016-2017 school year, the high school course work documented on the student's official transcript as approved by the Louisiana Department of Education constituting the following TOPS-Tech core curriculum;

<b>Core Curriculum—TOPS-Tech Award</b>	
<b>Units</b>	<b>Course</b>
1	English I
1	English II
1	English III
1	English IV or substitute 1 unit of Business English
1	Algebra I; or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II
2	Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Pre-Calculus], Advanced Mathematics II [beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year (high school) this course is renamed Advanced Math – Functions and Statistics], Discrete Mathematics, or Probability and Statistics (2 units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and shall be considered the equivalent of the 3 required math units
1	Biology
2	Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, or Chemistry or Applied Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology or Agriscience I and II (both for 1 unit)
1	American History
1	World History, Western Civilization or World Geography
1	Civics and Free Enterprise (1 unit combined) or Civics (1 unit, non-public)
Remaining Core Courses Shall Be Selected from One of the Following Options	
<b>Option 1 – Total of 17 Units</b>	
1	Fine Arts Survey or drafting (one unit) or substitute 2 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute 2 units of visual art courses; or substitute 2 units of studio art courses; or a course from the Career and Technical Program of studies that is approved by the BESE (must be listed under the Vocational Education Course Offerings in Bulletin 741 or the updates to Bulletin 741); or substitute 1 unit as an elective from among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum
2	Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I or Speech II
1	One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that is approved by the BESE
or	
<b>Option 2 – Total of 19 Units</b>	
4	In a career major comprised of a sequence of related specialty courses. In order for a student to use this option, the courses for the career major must be approved by BESE.
1	Credit in a basic computer course
1	In related or technical fields. A related course includes any course which is listed under the student's major. A technical course is one that is listed in the approved career option plan for the high school at which the course is taken.

A.6.b. - B.4.b.ii. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1904 (October 1998), amended LR 24:2237 (December 1998), LR 25:1795 (October 1999), LR 26:65 and 67 (January 2000), LR 26:1602 (August 2000), LR 26:1997 (September 2000), LR 26:2269 (October 2000), LR 26:2754 (December 2000), LR 27:36 (January 2001), LR 27:1220 (August 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1854 (November 2001), amended LR 28:447 (March 2002), LR 28:773 (April 2002), LR 28:2330 (November 2002), LR 29:554 (April 2003), LR 30:1164 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:39 (January 2005), LR 31:3114 (December 2005), LR 33:437 (March 2007), LR 33:2614 (December 2007), LR 35:230 (February 2009), LR 36:491 (March 2010), LR 36:2270 (October 2010), LR 36:2856 (December 2010), LR 38:3159 (December 2012), LR 41:654 (April 2015), LR 41:

### **§805. Maintaining Eligibility**

A.1. - 6. ...

7.a. Through the 2013-14 academic year, maintain, by the end of the spring term, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average (TOPS Tech) of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 maximum scale, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

b. Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, maintain, by the end of the academic year, a TOPS cumulative college grade point average (TOPS Tech) of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 maximum scale, provided that this requirement does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a cosmetology or proprietary school that is an eligible college or university and the student has met the federal grant aid steady academic progress requirement at that school; and

A.8. - E. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3036, R.S. 17:3042.1 and R.S. 17:3048.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR 24:1905 (October 1998) amended LR 25:1091 (June 1999), LR 26:68 (January 2000), LR 26:689 (April 2000), LR 26:1997, 2002 (September 2000), repromulgated LR 27:1856 (November 2001), amended LR 28:774 (April 2002), LR 28:2332 (November 2002), LR 29:880 (June 2003), LR 29:2373 (November 2003), LR 30:781 (April 2004), LR 30:1165 (June 2004), LR 30:2019 (September 2004), LR 31:3115 (December 2005), LR 33:438 (March 2007), LR 35:1489 (August 2009), LR 38:3160 (December 2012), LR 40:1002 (May 2014), LR 41:666 (April 2015), LR 41:

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